

of page 12 of the specification. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-13, 19, 23-28, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,994,944 to Vernondier (hereinafter Vernondier) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,434,455 to Merritt (hereinafter Merritt). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner states in the Office Action that “[i]t would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the material polycarbonate pigmented by titanium dioxide of Merritt in the polycarbonate material of Vernondier in order to provide a diffusing light means.”

Vernondier is directed to a lighting system including a plurality of modular components, each comprising an elongate strip of finite length, supporting or constituting an elongate lighting circuit extending along the strip and connector means for connecting adjacent strips end to end. Merritt is directed to an area light or streetlight mounted on a lamppost, the light source of which is enclosed by a lower upwardly flaring bowl having its upper end closed by a generally conical cap. The cap and bowl are made of polycarbonate pigmented by titanium dioxide so that the cap emits only light sufficient to enable its shape to be seen in darkness. The bowl is much more translucent so as to emit adequate light for illumination.

However, neither Vernondier nor Merritt, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest light sources that are “substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing” as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Vernondier and Merritt.

Claims 3, 5-7, 9-13, 19, and 23-28 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-13, 19, and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

With respect to claim 38, Vernondier and Merritt, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest “wherein said multiplicity of light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing” as recited in amended

claim 38. Accordingly, claim 38 is allowable.

Claims 7, 8, 12, 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of JP 09258676. Applicant respectfully traverses.

JP 0925676 is directed to a method for constituting the shape of graphics and characters by continuously forming housing recessed parts for housing light emitters and forming recessed curved surface parts for diffusing the light cast from the light emitters on the inside surfaces of the housing recessed parts.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 7, 8, 12, and 23-26 are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 8, 12, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Claims 14-18 and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,482,944 to Roossine et al. (hereinafter Roossine). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Roossine is directed to a flexible light strip assembly including a plurality of sockets and a pair of flexible conductive elements to which the sockets are attached.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 14-18 are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

For the same reason as discussed with respect to claim 1, neither Vernondier nor Roossine, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest multiple light sources that are “substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing” as recited in amended claim 32. Accordingly, claim 32 is allowable.

As stated above, claim 32 is allowable. Claims 33-37 are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,765,938 to Rousso et al. (hereinafter Rousso). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Rousso is directed to a flashlight including a flexible core comprising a pair of conductive wires which electrically connect a source of power to a power using implement.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 20-22 are allowable due to their dependence on allowable claim 1, and for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

In addition, neither Vernondier nor Rousso, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest an integral moulded body including "an internal flange that defines a peripheral groove to receive and sealingly grip an end of said generally tubular portions" as recited in amended claim 39. Accordingly, claim 39 is allowable.

As stated above, claim 39 is allowable. Claim 40 is allowable due to its dependence on allowable claim 39, and for the additional features it recite. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Attached hereto are a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment, and a clean version of all pending claims. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made" and "Pending Claims".

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies in connection with this response to deposit account No. 04-1425.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 12, 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A strip lighting device which includes:

an elongate housing that is at least partially translucent;

a multiplicity of light sources arranged at intervals within said housing, wherein said light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing; and

means to diffuse, disperse or scatter light from said light sources whereby on activation of the light sources, said housing glows when viewed from the outside so as to form a strip or line of light.

32. (Twice Amended) A housing assembly for strip lighting, including:

an elongate housing defining an enclosure for multiple light sources and being at least partly of a translucent material, wherein said multiple light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing;

a mounting rail; and

co-operable longitudinally extending formations on said rail and on said housing for effecting a snap or sliding engagement of the housing to the rail so that the housing is generally parallel to the rail.

38. (Amended) A strip lighting system, including:

a plurality of elongate housings at least partly of translucent material;

means in each of said housings to locate support means for a multiplicity of light sources at intervals in said housing and activatable so that the housing, when viewed from the outside through the translucent material, appears to glow and so to form a strip or line of light, wherein said multiplicity of light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated

and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing.

39. (Amended) A connector for physically coupling a pair of tubular components, including an integral moulded body which defines a pair of generally tubular portions slidably engageable with the respective said tubular components so that their interiors are in communication within the connector;

wherein said integral moulded body includes an internal flange that defines a peripheral groove to receive and sealingly grip an end of said generally tubular portions, and wherein said integral moulded body further defines a relatively thin wall portion between said generally tubular portions, said thin wall portion being resiliently deformable to compensate for relative variations in the relative positions of the generally tubular portions.